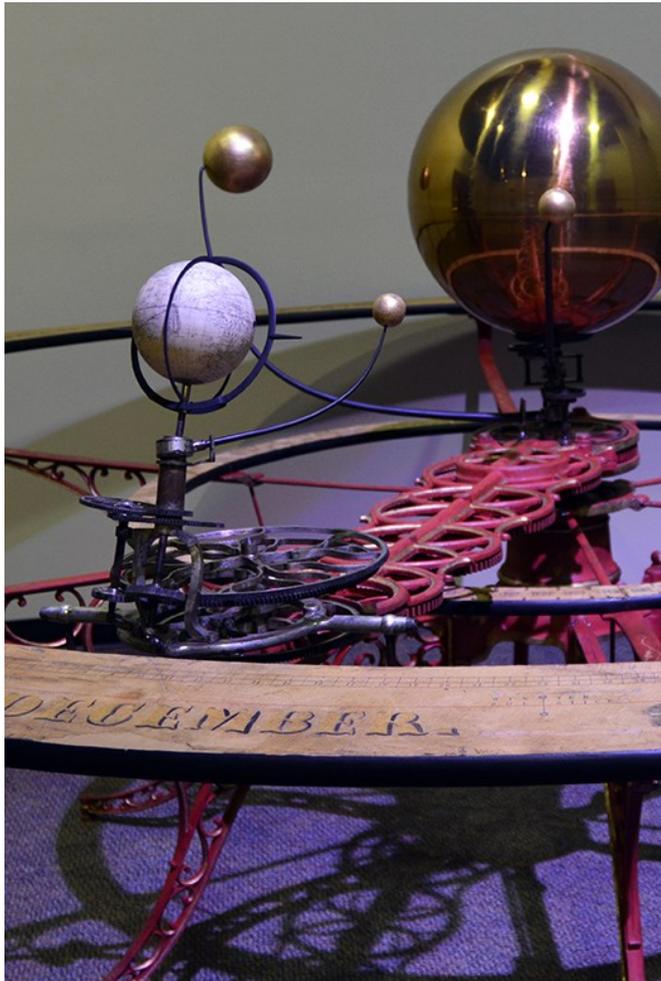


# THE KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS: THE STORIES OF KENTUCKY



## WHAT'S MY STORY?

### I WAS A REVOLUTIONARY KENTUCKY INNOVATION.

Kentuckian Thomas Barlow designed this “planetarium,” or orrery, in the 1840s and 1850s. Barlow’s machine was revolutionary because it allowed students of astronomy, for the first time, to visualize accurate planetary movement in the classroom. An inventor, mechanic and astronomy buff, Barlow worked with math professors at Transylvania University to ensure that the planets on his orrery moved in precisely the same way as the real planets for each day of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Orrery sales did not match Barlow’s revolutionary idea, yet his customers included the Military Academy at West Point and Washington and Lee University in Virginia.

Access this object (2000.35) and more than 100,000 others through the Kentucky Historical Society’s [online object catalog](#) and learn the stories of Kentucky.



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The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) educates and engages the public through Kentucky’s history in order to confront the challenges of the future.

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